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Programme planning

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017

Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme 14
Gender equality and empowerment of women

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Overall orientation

14.1 The pursuit of gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment is a prerequisite and driver for human rights, development and peace. In this regard, the direction of the programme is provided by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/289 establishing the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) as a composite entity. The proposed strategic framework for 2016-2017 is aligned with the strategic plan of UN-Women for 2014 to 2017 (UNW/2013/6), endorsed by the UN-Women Executive Board in September 2013.

14.2 Also in resolution 64/289, the General Assembly set out a framework for the work of the programme drawing on the Charter of the United Nations, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including its 12 critical areas of concern, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and applicable United Nations instruments, standards and resolutions that support, address and contribute to gender equality and the empowerment and advancement of women. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women is the principal international human rights treaty relating to the practical realization of equality between women and men. The General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women provide guidance for the normative support functions; the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Executive Board provide guidance for the operational activities. Intergovernmental resolutions and decisions set the women and peace and security agenda for UN-Women and the United Nations system.

14.3 The overall orientation of the programme is to achieve substantive equality for women and girls. The programme contributes to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals in the area of gender equality and the empowerment of women, recognizing that gender equality is pivotal to the achievement of sustainable development in all its dimensions.

14.4 During the period 2016-2017, UN-Women will continue to focus on the following key areas: (a) increasing women's leadership and participation in all areas that affect their lives, including in political and economic areas; (b) increasing women's access to economic empowerment and opportunities, especially for those who are most excluded, particularly women living in poverty; (c) preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls and expanding access to survivor services; (d) increasing women's leadership in peace, security and humanitarian response; (e) strengthening the responsiveness of plans and budgets in the area of gender equality at all levels; and (f) supporting the development of global norms, policies and standards on gender equality and women's empowerment.

14.5 The programme will create strategic partnerships that will lead to more effective coordination, coherence and gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system. It will carry out its work in coordination with other United Nations entities in order to avoid duplication of work. It will provide overall leadership and will strengthen such mechanisms as thematic inter-agency bodies at the global, regional and national levels, and will continue to promote and enhance accountability for gender equality in the United Nations system, including by assisting United Nations entities with the implementation of the United Nations system-wide action plan on gender equality and women's empowerment (UN-SWAP).

14.6 The programme of work of UN-Women is driven by the principle of universality. The achievement of gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment is central to the mandate of UN-Women and is addressed across all its priority areas of work.

14.7 The strategy for implementing the programme in the biennium 2016-2017 is centred on bringing together the normative support, coordination and operational support to ensure an even greater impact from United Nations support in these areas. The fulfilment of the overall orientation will result from expanding support provided to Member States, upon their request; strengthening coherence between the normative and operational work; and leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment and advancement of women. Support for gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system is an integral part of the programme strategy.

Subprogramme 1
Intergovernmental support and strategic partnerships

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, including women's full enjoyment of their human rights

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced capacity of intergovernmental bodies, especially the Commission on the Status of Women, for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, including the integration of gender perspectives into their spheres of activity	(a) (i) Increased number of activities aimed at supporting the participation of Member States, upon their request, in the deliberations of intergovernmental bodies, with particular emphasis on the Commission on the Status of Women (ii) Percentage of required documents submitted by UN-Women on time for consideration by the relevant intergovernmental bodies, including the Commission on the Status of Women, in compliance with the relevant rules and regulations on the issuance of documentation
(b) Enhanced support of UN-Women for the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women	(b) Increased number of activities of UN-Women aimed at supporting the participation of non-governmental organizations accredited by the Economic and Social Council to the Commission on the Status of Women

(c) Enhanced capacity of the United Nations system entities to mainstream gender perspectives and to undertake targeted measures to empower women in policies and programmes of the United Nations system in a coherent way	(c) (i) Number of initiatives of United Nations entities supported by UN-Women that incorporate gender perspectives into their policies, programmes and projects (ii) Number of human resources policy measures advocated and/or assisted by UN-Women in United Nations system entities that incorporate gender perspectives in their implementation
(d) Enhanced capacity to build partnerships for the accelerated realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women	(d) (i) Number of activities of UN-Women aimed at different stakeholders contributing to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (ii) Amount of resources mobilized as voluntary contributions to UN-Women

Strategy

14.8 The Intergovernmental Support, Coordination and Strategic Partnerships Bureau is responsible for the subprogramme. The strategy will include:

(a) Promoting actions and providing assistance to Member States, upon their request, for the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and its review outcomes, the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and other United Nations instruments, standards and resolutions that support, address and contribute to gender equality, as well as obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

(b) Providing substantive support to intergovernmental processes, in particular the Commission on the Status of Women, by facilitating discussion on key gender equality issues by Governments and other stakeholders;

(c) Supporting intergovernmental processes to increase the reflection of gender perspectives in sectoral areas, by providing innovative proposals;

(d) Increasing awareness and understanding of gender equality and the empowerment of women through education and information dissemination and outreach, using different channels, such as websites, social media and print products;

(e) Encouraging women's groups and other non-governmental organizations specializing in gender equality to participate in intergovernmental processes, including through increased outreach, funding and capacity-building;

(f) Leading and supporting system-wide and inter-agency collaboration on gender equality through the promotion of joint action; collaboration in United Nations country teams and their gender theme groups; and accountability frameworks;

(g) Supporting synergies and cooperation among countries, as well as the mechanisms established for the promotion of gender equality, at the regional and subregional levels;

(h) Supporting the improvement of the status of women and gender balance within the United Nations system through advocacy and monitoring of progress, as well as training opportunities for United Nations officials;

(i) Building and strengthening strategic partnerships with a broad range of stakeholders to achieve a robust resource base.

Subprogramme 2
Policy and programme activities

Objective of the Organization: To enhance efforts in the elimination of discrimination against women and girls and the achievement of gender equality in, inter alia, the fields of development, human rights and peace and security, including by leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work in those areas

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced policy support for the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other United Nations instruments, standards and resolutions that contribute to gender equality and the empowerment and advancement of women	(a) Increased number of policies and actions taken and/or supported by UN-Women, upon the request of Member States, at the national and regional levels to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other United Nations instruments, standards and resolutions that contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of women
(b) Enhanced capacity of UN-Women to effectively support, upon the request of Member States, national mechanisms for gender equality, service delivery institutions and civil society organizations in order to advance gender equality and women's empowerment and to protect women's human rights	(b) Number of UN-Women activities related to strengthening capacity development provided, upon the request of Member States, to national mechanisms for gender equality, service delivery institutions and civil society organizations

(c) Increased capacity to lead and coordinate the United Nations system at the country level in supporting Member States, upon their request, in the implementation of commitments to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, empower women and achieve gender equality	(c) (i) Number of United Nations coordination mechanisms on gender equality led or co-led by UN-Women at the national level (ii) Number of United Nations development frameworks and programmes at the country level formulated and implemented with the participation and/or assistance of UN-Women (iii) Number of United Nations country teams that are, with the support of UN-Women, applying performance indicators on gender equality in the common country assessments/United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks

Strategy

14.9 The Policy and Programme Bureau is responsible for the subprogramme. The strategy will include:

(a) Serving as a global knowledge centre on gender equality and empowerment of women, through research, analysis and evaluation of trends, including on new and emerging issues;

(b) Providing advice and support to Member States, as requested, including through field offices, to enhance capacity to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate their gender equality policies;

(c) Providing advocacy support, training and capacity development to Member States, as requested, to advance the implementation of commitments on gender equality and empowerment of women in line with their national priorities;

(d) Providing leadership, expertise and coordination support to United Nations country and regional teams and their gender theme groups, including by leading, coordinating and promoting accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

34/180	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
50/42	Fourth World Conference on Women
50/203	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
54/4	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

54/134	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration
59/164	Improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system
60/1	2005 World Summit Outcome
62/136	Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas
64/289	System-wide coherence
64/293	United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons
65/1	Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals
65/189	International Widows' Day
65/259	Questions relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011
66/130	Women and political participation
66/170	International Day of the Girl Child
66/181	Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity
67/144	Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women
67/145	Trafficking in women and girls
67/146	Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations
67/226	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
68/137	Violence against women migrant workers
68/139	Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas
68/140	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
68/227	Women in development
S-23/2	Political declaration
S-23/3	Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

76 (V)	Communications concerning the status of women
304 (XI)	Report of the Commission on the Status of Women (fourth session)

1992/19	Communications on the status of women
1996/6	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women
1996/31	Consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations
1999/257	Enabling the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to carry out its mandate
2005/232	Declaration of the Commission on the Status of Women on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women
2006/9	Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women
2009/15	Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women
2009/16	Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women of the Commission on the Status of Women
2013/16	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
2013/17	Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women
2013/18	Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

Economic and Social Council agreed conclusion and ministerial declaration

1997/2	Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (see A/52/3/Rev.1, chap. IV.A)
	Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment on implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women (see A/65/3/Rev.1, chap. III.F)

Security Council resolutions

1325 (2000)	Women and peace and security
1820 (2008)	Women and peace and security
1888 (2009)	Women and peace and security
1839 (2009)	Women and peace and security
1960 (2010)	Women and peace and security
2106 (2013)	Women and peace and security
2122 (2013)	Women and peace and security

Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women

1996	Resolution 40/9: Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical area of concern: poverty
1996	Women and the media
1996	Child and dependent care, including sharing of work and family responsibilities
1997	Women and the environment
1997	Women in power and decision-making
1997	Women and the economy
1997	Education and training of women
1998	Violence against women
1998	Women and armed conflict
1998	Human rights of women
1998	The girl child
1999	Women and health
1999	Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women
2001	Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
2001	Gender and all forms of discrimination, in particular racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
2002	Eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle, in a globalizing world
2002	Environmental management and the mitigation of natural disasters
2003	Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women
2004	The role of men and boys in achieving gender equality
2004	Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and resolution and in post-conflict peacebuilding
2006	Enhanced participation of women in development: an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and the advancement of women, taking into account, inter alia, the fields of education, health and work
2006	Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels
2007	Elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child
2008	Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women

2009	The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS
2011	Access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work
2013	Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls

Executive Board Decisions

2011/4	Least developed countries
2012/6	Regional architecture: administrative, budgetary and financial implications and implementation plan
2013/5	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women strategic plan, 2014-2017
2013/6	Integrated budget of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for the biennium 2014-2015